HOLSWORTHY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HIGH STREET,

HOLSWORTHY.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

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Medical Officer of Health - E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector - C. J. Smith, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector - R. D. J. Pyman, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.R.S.H.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	97,504
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	8,270
Number of inhabited houses	3,012
Number of Council Houses owned	408
Density of persons per house	2.7
Rateable Value (at 31st March, 1969)	£152,598
Value of Penny Rate (Actual Year to 31st March, 1970)	£627 8s. 7d.
Area Comparability Factors:- Births	1.16
Deaths	0.82

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births -	
Number	122
Rate per 1,000 population	14.8
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	17.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	6
Stillbirths -	
Number	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Stillbirths	16
Total Live and Stillbirths	124
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates -	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	16
Legit. " " " " Legit. " "	17

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VITAL STATISTICS (Contd.)

Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births	NIL
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	16
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	NIL
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	16
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) -	
Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	NIL
Deaths	96
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	11.6
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor.	9.5

BIRTHS

During the year there were 122 live births.

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	65	50	115
Illegitimate	4	3	7
			122

Live birth rate per 1,000 population adjusted	17.2
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	16.0

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			2

Still Birth rate per 1,000 population	16

DEATHS

Males	Females	Total
52	44	96

Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	9.5
Death rate (England and Wales)	11.7

CAUSE OF DEATH

	Males	Females
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lunc, Bronchus	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus		1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	4
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	12	18
Other forms of Heart Disease	3	3
Cerebrovascular Disease	8	8
Other Disease of Circulatory System	3	2
Influenza	2	-
Pneumonia	2	-
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	-
Peptic Ulcer	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasis of Prostate	1	
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	-	1

CAUSE OF DEATH (Contd.)

	Males	Females
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	-
Symtoms and Ill Defined Conditions	3	-
All Other Accidents	1	-
	52	44

Note: From the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Titchfield:-

VITAL STATISTICS 1970.

The forms SD 25 issued to Medical Officers of Health earlier this year were correct according to the information available at the time, but necessarily excluded information delayed by the postal strike: for example the reassignment of certain deaths.

In these unusual circumstances, and in order the avoid uncertainties, corrected figures have been prepared. The attached form SD25 (above figures have been taken from SD25) shows the deaths finally allocated to the area for 1970, and may therefore differ slightly from the form issued earlier.

JUNE 1971.

Deaths occurred in the following age groups:-

Under 1 Year	2
1 - 4 years	NIL
5 - 14 years	1
15 - 24 years	NIL
25 - 34 years	NIL
35 - 44 years	NIL
45 - 54 years	2
55 - 64 years	16
65 - 74 years	31
75 + years	44

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 2 infants died under the age of 1 year, deaths being due to birth injury or difficult labour, etc.

	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	0
Illegitimate	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 16

Cancer Deaths

There were 10 deaths from Cancer during the year.

	Male	Female
Stomach	1	-
Intestine	-	1
Lung Bronchus	1	-
Uterus		1
Prostate	1	-
Others	4	1
	7	3

Infectious Diseases

Measles 64

Scarlet Fever 4

There were two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47 and Amendment Act 1951

This section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons to a County Welfare House. It concerns those who are living alone in insanitary conditions and who are suffering from grave chronic disease and are not receiving proper care and attention from others.

No cases were dealt with under the Section during the year.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting this Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1970.

The most significant aspect of the department's work occurred in connection with housing, when the Housing Act, 1969, began to take its full effect. This Act, which gave powers to Local Authorities to make grants of up to £1,000, was designed to deal with the four million sub-standard houses throughout the country. Council's were given a much wider use of their discretionary powers in order to get as many properties as possible brought up to a modern standard.

Whilst a few authorities were reticent to give discretionary grants for such high amounts, this was not the case with Holsworthy Rural District Council. Every opportunity and encouragement was given to householders to improve their dwellings and there was a sharp increase in the number of applications made over previous years.

The only licenced slaughterhouse in the district continued to operate throughout the year despite its sub-standard condition. Although it was the intention of the Council that the licence should be discontinued after expiry on 30th September, a further licence for a period of six months only was granted in order that the owner could make a final attempt to erect new premises. Negotiations were underway to achieve this at the time of the licence extension, but towards the end of the year the chances of new premises appeared remote.

Due to the increase in improvement grants and visits made for meat inspection, it was not possible to make many routine visits in respect of other public health matters with a staff of two. The total number of visits made during the year are listed in this report together with all other relevant details of the department.

I extend my gratitude to the Council's Officers and staff for their assistance during the year and in particular to Mr. R. D. J. Pyman, Additional Public Health Inspector, for his support and loyal service.

C. J. SMITH
Senior Public Health Inspector.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE

	Visits
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. ..	12
Civic Amenities Act, 1967.	4
Food & Drugs Act, 1955.	
i. Food Hygiene	7
ii. Food Inspection	8
iii. Ice Cream	1
iv. Meat Inspection	459
Housing Acts.	
i. Improvement Grant Applications (including supervision of works in progress).	551
ii. Improvement Area	9
iii. Qualification Certificates (inspections and re-visits).	10
iv. Unfit properties (inspections and re-visits).	40
Petroleum Acts.	21
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.	26
Public Health Acts.	
i. Drainage Complaints	14
ii. General Nuisances (including re-visits)	69
iii. Refuse Collection & Disposal	192
iv. Sewerage Schemes (survey visits)	4
v. Swimming Pools (sampling,etc.)	4
vi. Water Supplies	45
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.	4
Miscellaneous	31

HOUSING

The following is a list of houses provided by the Council:-

Pre-war:

Holsworthy	- Forresters Road	17
	Dobles Terrace	6
	Pins Park	8
Milton Damerel	- Venn Green	2
Chilsworthy	- Newcourt	2
Bridgerule	- Littlebridge	2
Pyworthy	- Derriton Road	2
Halwill	- Fir Park	2
Bradworthy	- Westcroft	2
Houses acquired		4
		47

Post-war:

Holsworthy	- Pins Park	10
	Glebeland	114
	Stanhope Close	48
Ashwater	- Manor Park	10
Black Torrington	- Bowhay	10
Bradford	- Queens Park	8
Bradworthy	- Tuckers Park	26
Bridgerule	- Bridge Park	8
	The Green	16
Broadwoodwidger	- Ivy House	2
	Moor View	2
	Tor View	4
Clawton	- Claw Park	14
Chilsworthy	- Quarry Park	4
Halwill	- Holywell Park	12
	Woodlands	6
	Somerslea	8
Milton Damerel	- Venn Green	4
	Beech Park	14
Pyworthy	- Derriton Road	12
	Shortlands	10
St. Giles	- East Panson	2
	Jays Cross	2
	Pinslow Cross	4
	South View	2
Sutcombe	- Square Park	7
Tetcott	- Lana Park	4
Thornbury	- Dennis Close	4
Virginstow	- Sharon Park	2
West Putford	- Sessacott	2
		371

Inspections made under the Housing Act, 1957, resulted in a Closing Order being made in respect of one property and a Demolition Order being made in respect of another.

A further 12 properties were brought up to standard by informal action and the owners took advantage of the Standard Grant Scheme to include all the required facilities.

Houses completed during the year were:-

a. By the Rural District Council - 24

b. By Private Enterprise - 37

Number on list at end of 1970 after transfer of new tenancies and removal from list of persons having left the district - 97.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of Standard Grant Applications received	- 40
Number of Standard Grants paid	- 30
Total amount of Standard Grants paid	- £6,910
Number of Discretionary Grant Applications received	- 30
Number of Discretionary Grants paid	- 8
Total amount of Discretionary Grants paid	- £4,623

HOUSING ACT, 1969.
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Towards the end of the year preliminary visits were made to all the properties within the village of Broadwoodwidger with a view to it being declared a General Development Area. The support of the Parish Council was obtained and enthusiasm was shown by the residents of the 17 houses included.

A report for consideration by the Council was being prepared at the end of the year with a view to the area being declared.

RENT ACT, 1957.

No action was deemed necessary under the Act during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.
FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.
FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1966.

Inspections under the various regulations were made when premises were visited in connection with other matters. Routine visits to all food premises could not be undertaken due to the amount of time spent on other and more predominant duties, but seven visits were made during the year.

No prosecutions were deemed necessary during the period under review.

FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

The following number of Food Premises are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

(i)	Bakehouses	2
	Bakers Shops	2
	Butchers Shops	9
	Cafes, Hotels, Restaurants, Fish Salons	8
	Confectioners	5
	Greengrocers	1
	Grocers and Provision Shops	25
	Market	1
(ii)	The number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (wash hand basins) is	47
(iii)	The number of premises to which Regulation 19 (facilities for washing food and equipment) applies is	49
(iv)	The number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19 is	47

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulation, 1963.

No egg pasteurisation plants are in existence within the district.

Poultry Inspection

There are no known poultry processing premises operating in the area.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

The entire throughput of meat at the only slaughterhouse in the district was inspected by the Department. This involved visits on both Saturdays and Sundays during most weekends in the year.

Reference has already been made in this report to the sub-standard condition of the premises.

The only satisfactory way in which proper slaughtering facilities could be provided is by the construction of complete new premises using a line system of dressing. Efforts were being made at the close of the year to achieve this aim although the temporary licence issued had only a further three months to run.

Details of the number of animals slaughtered and the parts or organs condemned are given in the table on the following page.

DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND PARTS CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Goats	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	85	Nil	1	66	18,714	9,608	28,474
Number Inspected	85	Nil	1	66	18,714	9,608	28,474
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI							
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	63	12	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	38	Nil	Nil	3	831	907	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	44.705	Nil	Nil	15.15	4.777	9.565	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY							
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	69	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.718	
CYSTICERCOSIS							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refridgeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of Bovines inspected affected with Cysticercus Bovis	1.176	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

This duty is the responsibility of the Council's Surveyor in conjunction with Consulting Civil Engineers.

Various village schemes from Consulting Engineers were still in the course of preparation or waiting for approval from the Ministry. Progress continued by Consultants for a comprehensive scheme to deal with sewage from Holsworthy Town.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection and disposal was carried out by the Department on a similar basis to that which was arranged after reorganisation of the system during 1968. A weekly collection was maintained throughout 95% of the district.

WATER SUPPLIES

A mains supply of water is available to the majority of the district being supplied by the North Devon Water Board.

Certain isolated properties are still dependent on a well supply and samples are taken for bacteriological analysis on behalf of the occupier whenever the opportunity arises. Invariably the results obtained are very poor and advice to improve the source is given, whenever necessary.

RODENT CONTROL

Periodical baiting and treatment of sewers and refuse tips is undertaken by the Council but no service to the general public is available as the Council do not employ a Rodent Operator.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

37 premises are licenced to store petroleum spirit. The revenue to this Council from fees paid during the year amounted to £102.

Pressure testing of tanks which had been in use for 20 years or more continued during the year. One tank was filled and rendered safe following a test failure.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

At the close of the year the number of premises registered under the Act was 85. No premises were newly registered during this period.

The following tables show the position regarding premises covered by the Act.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of registered premises at the end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	38	Nil
Retail Shops	38	1
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	5	Nil
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	4	Nil
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	85	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number of			
(i) Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	1	-	-
(111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	36	1	-	-